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Letter dated 21 March 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith resolution No. 6068, dated 12 March 2001, entitled "The coercive measures imposed on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the United States and the United Kingdom as a result of the dispute over the so-called Lockerbie question", adopted by the one-hundred-fifteenth regular session of the League of Arab States at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held on 12 March 2001, at the League of Arab States headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

I should be grateful if you would draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to this letter and its annexes, and have them circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ali A. **Abbas**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 21 March 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

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The coercive measures imposed on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the United States and the United Kingdom as a result of the dispute over the so-called Lockerbie question

The Council of the League of Arab States,

Having examined:

The memorandum from the General Secretariat;

The recommendations of the Political Committee;

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the question;

Referring to the declarations adopted at the Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries;

Referring also to the resolution adopted during the fifth extraordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Sirte on 1 and 2 February 2000,

Commending the flexible position of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and its positive initiatives aimed at ensuring a peaceful settlement of the conflict;

Commending the fact that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya encouraged the two suspects, its citizens to appear before the Scottish court in the Netherlands, and commending the positive and collaborative attitude of the two Libyan citizens;

Thanking the Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States and the Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity for their contributions towards a settlement of the conflict;

Noting that a legal expert representing the League of Arab States was sent to accompany the team of international observers following the trial of the two Libyan suspects appearing before the Scottish court;

Recalling once again the enormity of the damage caused to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the sanctions imposed on it for over seven years, and the adverse effects on the economies of neighbouring States;

Reiterating that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has fulfilled all its obligations under Security Council resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), 883 (1992) and 1192 (1998);

Noting also that diplomatic relations have been restored between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland — a positive development which is tangible proof that dialogue and mutual understanding represent the best way to solve problems;

Referring to the resolution of the Parliament of the European Union adopted in Brussels on 12 September 1999, by which it lifted the sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, except for armaments, and the statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on 4 November 1999 that the Government of the United Kingdom was satisfied with the measures taken by the Libyan judicial authorities during the visit by a Scottish police team conducting inquiries into the Lockerbie case;

Expressing its deep dismay that the Security Council has so far failed to adopt a resolution lifting fully and definitively the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, even though it has received a report from the Secretary-General stating that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has fully complied with all its obligations under the aforementioned Security Council resolutions;

Bearing in mind that the Scottish court has pronounced a verdict in the case, and bearing in mind the opinion of the international legal experts, including the Scottish jurist Robert Black, who took part in the establishment of the court;

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

Decides:

1. To voice its consternation at the conviction of one of the Libyan citizens, and to express its firm belief that the acquittal of one of the two implies that the other is innocent, inasmuch as the suspicions that fell on the two were based on the same charge;

2. To reaffirm its solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its demand for a fair and impartial hearing for the Libyan citizen Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi during and after the appeal, and for guarantees of all his legal and human rights during and after the appeal;

3. To alert world public opinion to the political motives as a result of which the Libyan citizen Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi was subjected to a trial that legal experts found to be flawed in several respects;

4. To demand the immediate release of the Libyan citizen Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi, who has been convicted for political reasons totally unrelated to the law, and who, under all applicable laws and customs, may be regarded as a hostage;

5. To reject emphatically the way in which persistent efforts are being made to block any lifting of sanctions on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to ignore the provisions of paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 883 (1992) and the related report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Security Council, for such efforts violate international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the resolutions of the Security Council, and the agreement and guarantees endorsed by the parties;

6. To demand that the Security Council lift the sanctions on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya definitively and immediately, bearing in mind that it has fulfilled all the obligations imposed by the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1192 (1998), and to request the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to continue his efforts with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council until action is taken to lift the sanctions, and

also to pursue his contacts with the various regional groups so as to maintain the pressure for such action;

7. To urge the Arab States en masse to declare the sanctions null and void, and to consider themselves freed from the obligation to implement them, in accordance with operative paragraph 3 of resolution 5848/SO (111) of the Council of the League of Arab States and operative paragraph 4 of its resolution 5894/SO (112), on the grounds that there is no justification for them to continue applying those sanctions;

8. To appeal to the United States of America to initiate a direct dialogue on equal terms with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in order to examine and remove any impediments to the normalization of bilateral relations between the two countries, and in order to allow the Lockerbie case to follow its juridical course, as required by the nature of the conflict and as agreed by the parties without any type of pressure;

9. To support the legitimate right of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to obtain fair compensation for the material damage and human suffering caused by the sanctions imposed on it;

10. To request the Political Committee of the League of Arab States to continue its efforts until a solution is found to the conflict;

11. To continue including the item on a permanent basis in the agenda of the Council of the League of Arab States until the case is closed once and for all;

12. To instruct the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its forthcoming one-hundred-sixteenth session.

(R: No. 6068-SO (115), 12 March 2001).